

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Miller Urges Gov. Rell to Back Biodiesel School Buses



State Representative Lawrence G. Miller today commended Governor M. Jodi Rell for strongly supporting a state plan to add 575 alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles to its fleet and urged her to build on the enthusiasm for 'green' vehicles she is helping to create by announcing her support for biodiesel-fueled school buses.

"I commend Governor Rell for supporting the purchase of a significant number of new vehicles that will be more fuel-efficient and help improve air quality in Connecticut," said Representative Miller, R-122nd District. "Her support for the addition of these vehicles to the state's fleet will encourage more people to buy them. I would urge her to follow up her 'green vehicles' announcement with a public statement of support for biodiesel-fueled school buses."

"While the purchase of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles by the state sets the right example and will ultimately benefit the environment, if the 6,100 school buses that operate in Connecticut were to begin using biodiesel fuel it would produce similar results much more quickly," Representative Miller said. "In fact, if all of the state's diesel-powered transit buses also began operating on biodiesel fuel, it would take five to ten years for the same number of hybrids and alternate fuel vehicles to achieve the same improvement in air quality."

"Many European countries have been using biodiesel for decades. The United States Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration use it as well. In addition, many state and local governments throughout the United States also promote the use of biodiesel. Connecticut, the Constitution State, is one of only a few state governments that do not support biodiesel as a healthier alternative to conventional diesel fuel," Representative Miller said.

"Unfortunately, the bureaucrats at the state Department of Environmental Protection, who have an institutional bias against biodiesel that is shared by their liberal allies in the General Assembly, have succeeded in blocking proposals I and others have introduced over the years to encourage the use of this environmentally friendly fuel on the dubious grounds that it does not eliminate 100 percent of the emissions associated with diesel exhaust fumes," Representative Miller said.

"Our state has an air pollution problem that is one of the worst in the country. As a result, more people here are contracting asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases every year," Representative Miller said. "The overwhelming weight of evidence amassed over the years clearly demonstrates that widespread use of biodiesel significantly improves air quality. If biodiesel were substituted for conventional diesel, it would result in an immediate improvement in the quality of the air we breathe and improve respiratory health for thousands of Connecticut residents."